

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 686

By McLeary

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud Head Coach Mark Campbell and the Union University women's basketball team upon winning the 2006 NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful sports teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Union University women's basketball program is one such estimable basketball team that achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2005-2006 season, establishing a record of thirty-one wins against only six losses and claiming the 2006 NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship Title; and

WHEREAS, defeating John Brown in the first round of the NAIA women's basketball tournament by the score of 76-57, the Lady Bulldogs crushed Saint Xavier (92-69) and beat Oklahoma City (74-68) to advance to the semifinals; and

WHEREAS, a team with uncommon dedication and motivation, the Lady Bulldogs triumphed over The Master's College by the score of 62-51 to advance to the championship game; and

WHEREAS, led by the outstanding performances of Union's Josephine Owino, who scored twenty-four points and pulled down ten rebounds, Natanya Smith, who added sixteen points and grabbed fourteen rebounds, and Ena Daniels, who scored ten points, the Union women's basketball team defeated Lubbock Christian in the tournament championship game by the score of 79-62 to win their second consecutive NAIA Crown; and

WHEREAS, the extremely talented and athletic members of the Union University women's basketball team include Ena Daniels, Peggy McCain, Jennifer Henson, Tiffany Fisher,

Natanya Smith, La Toraya Fuller, D. J. Sissoko, Crystal Eason, Merideth Richardson, Josephine Owino, and Jessica Graves; and

WHEREAS, Josephine Owino, Ena Daniels, and Merideth Richardson were named NAIA First-Team All-Americans; and

WHEREAS, the winningest active coach in NAIA women's basketball, Head Coach Mark Campbell was named NAIA Coach of the Year for the second straight season; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Mark Campbell laid the groundwork for this year's championship team by sharing with these young women his substantial knowledge of basketball, his many years of coaching and athletic experience, and his passion both for the sport of basketball and for excellence in every endeavor; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the able leadership of Head Coach Campbell, the Union University women's basketball team benefited from the hard work and guidance of Assistant Coach Katie Woodruff, Graduate Assistant Coach Molly York, Student Assistant Joanna Vaughan, Student Assistant Joy Wynn, Head Trainer Lee Ann Simmons, and Student Trainer Joel Bain; and

WHEREAS, the women basketball players at Union University epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young women not only made possible a championship basketball season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Union University Lady Bulldogs for winning the 2006 NAIA Women's Basketball Championship and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the coaches and players of the Union University women's basketball team upon winning back-to-back NAIA Women's Basketball

Titles, commend them upon a successful basketball season, and wish them every success in all future endeavors

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.